

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SCCT-02 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-14 DRC-01

ACDA-19 /150 W

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R 251223Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3793

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USINT DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USCINCEUR

EUCOM

UNCLAS ANKARA 3127

EUCOM FOR POLAD AND J-2

EO 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TU, SY

SUBJECT: VISIT OF SYRIAN DEPUTY PRIMIN AND FONMIN KHADDAM

REF: A) ANKARA 3089; B) FBIS KYRENIA 241650Z APR 74;

C) ANKARA 6237 OF AUG 6, 1973; D) ANKARA 6203 OF
AUG 3, 1973

SUMMARY: 'ABD AL-HALIM KHADDAM, DEPUTY PRIMIN AND
FONMIN OF SYRIA, DURING VISIT TO TURKEY APRIL 23-24,
SAID THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF SOVIET ARMS BEING SHIPPED TO
SYRIA THROUGH TURKEY. PRESS REPORTS THAT BILATERAL TALKS
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ON EUPHRATES WATERS WILL BEGIN ON MAY 2. END SUMMARY.

1. KHADDAM, FOLLOWING UP GENERALLY SATISFACTORY VISIT OF AUGUST 1973 WHICH INSTITUTIONALIZED BILATERAL MEETINGS OF TURKISH AND SYRIAN FONMIN'S (SEE REFS C & D), DELIVERED A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM SYRIAN PRESIDENT HAFIZ AL-ASAD TO TURKISH PRESIDENT FAHRI KORUTURK. ACCORDING TO APRIL 25 TURKISH PRESS, KHADDAM SAID PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FROM ANKARA AIRPORT THAT MESSAGE COVERED DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, BILATERAL RELATIONS, AND THE UTILIZATION OF THE WATERS OF THE EUPHRATES RIVER.

2. AS REPORTED IN REF B, KHADDAM SAID HIS GOVERNMENT HOPES THE MIDDLE EAST WILL ACHIEVE PEACE AND TRANQUILITY FOLLOWING THE FORTHCOMING VISIT OF SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, KHADDAM ON HIS ARRIVAL IN ANKARA HAD EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH TURKEY'S ACTIVITIES REGARDING THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION. KHADDAM ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF ARMS BEING TRANSPORTED TO SYRIA FROM THE SOVIET UNION THROUGH OR OVER TURKEY.

3. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, KHADDAM SAID TURKISH FONMIN GUNES WILL VISIT SYRIA IN JUNE; PRIMIN ECEVIT HAS ALSO BEEN INVITED TO MAKE AN OFFICIAL VISIT.

4. APRIL 25 HURRIYET, QUOTING FONMIN GUNES, REPORTED THAT TALKS ON THE EUPHRATES WATERS WOULD BEGIN IN ANKARA ON MAY 2. ACCORDING TO THE TURKISH PRESS, THE SYRIANS ARE DISSATISFIED WITH THE REDUCED DOWNSTREAM FLOW OF THE RIVER AS A RESULT OF THE FILLING OF THE KEBAN DAM RESERVOIR IN TURKEY.

5. COMMENT: AS REPORTED IN REF A, KHADDAM'S VISIT IS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF TURKS' INTEREST IN EXPANDING ROLE IN ME AFFAIRS. WHAT KIND OF ARRANGEMENT, IF ANY, CAN BE WORKED OUT REGARDING EUPHRATES SHOULD PROVIDE CLEARER PICTURE OF TURKISH PRIORITIES.
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